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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 20 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative
of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French,
of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Equatorial
Guinea, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 15 April 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and
its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under
item 98 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement on Equatorial Guinea issued by the European
Community and its member States on 15 April 1992

The Community and its member States are concerned at the continuing violations of human rights in Equatorial Guinea, which risk endangering the process of democratization initiated with the recent review of the Constitution.

They express their strong disquiet at recent developments, in particular regarding arrests and arbitrary detentions during which those concerned would have been subjected to brutality.

The Community and its member States wish to reaffirm the great importance they attach to the respect of human rights in accordance with article 5 of the fourth ACP-EEC Lomé Convention and with the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Community of 28 November 1991 on human rights, democracy and development.

They consider that the development of Equatorial Guinea cannot be guaranteed without the largest participation of all segments of the population. To this effect, they invite the Government to establish a constructive dialogue with all political and social forces of the country, with a view to promoting the regime's democratization. In order to allow for an effective participation of all nationals of Equatorial Guinea in this process, all exiled people who so wish should be allowed to return to the country.

In this context, the Community and its member States will continue to follow with particular care developments with regard to the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea, as well as the evolution of the process of democratization.
